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# The LABOUR ORGANISER

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Communications to be addressed to the Labour Party

Vol. 24. No. 274

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## Labour's Aim—A Clear Majority

The progress of the war in Europe is giving rise to speculations about the first General Election, and to discussions on proposals for the Peace and Post-War Reconstruction. After five years of concentration on beating Nazism militarily, the political issues to bring about its final defeat are becoming uppermost in the public mind. Apathy which has clogged our efforts since 1939 is giving way to a liveliness which augurs well for democratic government.

The present all-Party Government has not yet finished the task for which it was appointed, and the Labour Party, whose policy has led and strengthened the nation since the Munich fiasco, will continue full co-operation until the end. Naturally, however, political Parties must prepare for the changes ahead, and the Labour Party in particular must be ready for the political contests which will follow.

Although the Electoral Truce will continue during the life of the present Government, the National Executive Committee, through Mr. Attlee, gave an undertaking to the Annual Party Conference in 1943, that there would be no Coupon Election. The Committee, still leading the Movement, has now announced that it will recommend the Annual Party Conference in December that, in the first General Election the Party should fight as an

Independent Organisation with a single Policy and a single Loyalty.

*The Labour Party everywhere is on the move. Recent experiences at Conferences in Scotland, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Sussex and Devon give clear evidence of Party solidarity and keenness in Election preparations. At no time in the past forty years has the Party shown so much purpose or determination to win a majority. The highlights of the discussions have been on detailed organisation and propaganda rather than on policy debating points, legitimate or otherwise.*

The approaching Annual Party Conference will show similar tendencies. The special report on Organisation and Finance will be allotted ample time for debate, and, if Regional indications are to be accepted, delegates, whether from Trade Unions or Constituency Parties, will give intense attention to all the points involved.

The "Labour Organiser" will play its full part on the road to complete electoral victory, and it will look to its readers to give active support to achieve a Labour Government. Nothing short of a complete majority can or should be contemplated, for the General Election must decide our future lives as citizens and the conditions under which we are to work and live.



# MONEY, MERIT AND CANDIDATURES

By D. F. ALGER (Secretary, South Derbyshire D.L.P.)

(We hope this article will promote discussion on a vital issue. It does not, of course, necessarily represent the views of the N.E.C.)

The National Executive Committee and many of the affiliated Trade Unions are concerned about the quality of some of the candidates who have been elected to Parliament in recent years. In this connection it should be remembered that, whatever its defects, the Electoral Truce has given the Labour Party an opportunity of returning some of its ablest representatives to Parliament with comparative ease. It is a fair inference that in some cases this opportunity has not been taken.

Now the reasons why the opportunity has not been taken are probably varied and complex. In some cases it may have been due to a failure to consider the national responsibilities implicit in the choice of Parliamentary candidates. But there is one difficulty of which we are all aware and upon which it would be wise to concentrate our attention in the hope of making satisfactory suggestions for its removal.

This difficulty is that in their choice of candidates some Divisional Parties, and especially some Divisional Parties in strong Labour areas, are unduly swayed by financial considerations.

In the case of a Divisional Party which actually needs or greatly desires money, the candidate who can offer it is most certain to be chosen, irrespective of his personal merits. There are candidates who purposely exploit the needs and desires of Divisional Parties in this matter.

Even the most virtuous Divisional Parties are sometimes tempted to satisfy their needs from the pocket of the candidate rather than continue the uphill task of collecting money from their supporters. I have myself been a member of a Divisional Party which was almost reduced to ruin when its rich candidate retired.

It seems to me that we must devise a method which will ensure that there is the nearest possible approach to

financial equality among the candidates who are finally placed on the National Panel or—if there should be no National Panel—among the candidates of known merit who appear before Selection Conferences.

I therefore submit these questions for discussion:—

(1) Apart from the candidates who receive financial support from an affiliated organisation, should there be a limited number of candidates chosen after consultation between the National Executive of the Labour Party and the affiliated organisations and given financial support from the National Party funds?

(2) Should an effort be made to reach some agreement between the National Executive of the Labour Party and the affiliated organisations for the pooling of financial resources in the interests of all candidates who are financially placed on the National Panel?

(3) Should there be a completely new fund started and gradually built up for the financing of poor candidates of merit?

(4) Should the National Executive of the Labour Party and the affiliated organisations consider the possibility of prohibiting candidates in safe or comparatively safe areas from offering large sums of money to Divisional Parties?

(5) Should the maximum contribution which candidates can make to Divisional Parties be reduced rather than increased?

I would emphasise these points. First, that these questions are intended as a basis of discussion; it is not desirable that at this stage I should stress one more than the other. Secondly, that there ought always to be a fair chance for the poor and able candidate, a chance which I feel is in danger of disappearing. Thirdly, that whatever reform is finally agreed upon should command the assent of the affiliated organisations and the Divisional

(Continued on page 6)

# AROUND THE PARTIES

## BRISTOL FASHION

Here is an agenda of a meeting recently held in **Bristol** of Labour candidates, agents, secretaries and chairmen of the five Parliamentary constituencies, to give consideration to:—

(1) Selection of candidates. (2) Appointment of agents. (3) The Government White Papers on: (a) Re-distribution of Parliamentary Seats; (b) Electoral Reform. (4) The setting up, when an election is imminent, of a Central General Election Committee, composed of candidates, agents and chairmen, to act as a co-ordinating and advisory body. (5) Conferences of Trades Union secretaries and officials: (a) Financial appeal; (b) help of the Trades Unions as units of organisation to assist in the conduct of a General Election. (6) The setting up of a Parliamentary Report and Research Group, for the purpose of supplying candidates and agents appointed on policy and propaganda, and notes for canvassers. (7) The central purchase of standardised stationery and election material. (8) The Register: (a) Service Voters; (b) Voters by Proxy; (c) Business Voters.

As you see, all is ship-shape and Bristol fashion! It is hoped that the reproduction of the agenda will help to set other great city Parties in motion.

## CALLING ALL SERVICEMEN

**Newport (Mon.)** Party has had a bright idea. It has issued an Open Letter, in vivid red print and headed "Halt! Attention!" to Servicemen and women urging them to join the Party. Here is an excerpt from it:—

"When victory comes there will be a great need for social and industrial changes. Are those changes going to be back to the old days of restricted production, accompanied by Unemployment and Poverty? Or—Forward to Increased Production for use, with its accompanied prosperity and social security for all?

You want to see in our land a happy and contented people, with the fear of future wars removed. You do not want to see the children of to-day pass through what you have passed through during the past five years.

The Labour Party stands for the abolition of Poverty and War. We

want your help in building a new society in this land of ours.

You are therefore invited to become a member of our Party. Membership during the period of your Service is free. If you desire to join, please fill in the attached form."

## IN THE MONEY

Recent developments in **Swindon** Division have shown quite remarkable results. In 1940, the Constituency Party was in debt, and in bad repute with traders, the Co-operative Society and the Local Government Authority.

With £350 in the Candidature Fund and £341 in the General Fund, the Party has now almost £700 in credit balances, and in addition, possesses valuable property.

Much of the credit for the change is due to the untiring attention of the candidate to his own duties, and the assiduous attention of the agent to Party machinery. The latter is proud of the fact that the individual membership of the Party has now reached a grand total of 1,433. The target fixed for this year is 1,500. The case of Swindon is another indication that courage to undertake developments during a period of Party weakness amply repays the risks run.

## LITTLE BIT INDEPENDENT

Despite flattering attention from the Common Wealth and Communist Parties, the **Colchester** Labour Party has decided to fight every Council seat when Municipal Elections again become possible. The pincer Movement of the Splinter Parties is not to be permitted to succeed.

## HIGHLAND GATHERINGS

**Ross and Cromarty** Constituency in the Highlands is getting ready for the General Election. New Parties have been formed at Dingwall, Alness, Invergordon, Tain and Fortrose. Memories of a famous by-election in this constituency convince us that the population in the far north, especially with recent industrial developments, is fertile ground for Labour's Principles and Policy.

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Question.*—I have been asked to act as Election Agent at the next general election. I have had experience of running local elections. Are there any facilities I can have to equip myself for the parliamentary job.

*Answer.*—Yes, Head Office will shortly be starting a special rapid postal course for the benefit of prospective election agents. The first and parliamentary part covering 12 weeks will deal with law points and practical procedure, the War-time Election Acts and new procedure, and electoral preparation for constituencies. Concurrently, it is possible that some of the District Officers will be running practical classes for the prospective agents. Further, Head Office will be able to supply prospective agents with Outlines of Practical Instruction which they can use for running classes for training their own election key workers. At the time an election is impending, Head Office supplies Agents with informative notes and memoranda as to conducting the contest.

*Question.*—What is the number and price of the main general Regulations appended to the War-time Election Acts? Where can Acts and Statutory Orders be purchased?

*Answer.*—The title of the Regulations is S.R. and O. 1944. No. 900. "Parliamentary Elections." Price 8d. plus postage id. Acts and Regulations can be got from any of H.M. Stationery Offices, at:  
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.  
13a, Castle Street, Edinburgh.  
39-41, King Street, Manchester.  
1, St. Andrews Crescent Cardiff,  
or through any bookseller.

(Continued from page 4)

Parties. Fourthly, that in all cases merit rather than money should be the test of a candidate, since a Parliamentary majority elected on the opposite principle will yield a weak Government which will discredit the Party in the eyes of the nation.

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On taking your place on the platform, glance at the audience, think of them as friends and sympathetic hearers. There is no need for stage fright, that audience will accept your remarks quite ordinarily and appreciatively, however simple the remarks are.

The moment comes when you have to rise. Look at the audience in general and pitch your voice by throwing it to the further part of the gathering. Remember to begin in a slightly deeper tone than you use for conversation. Speak distinctly. Allay any fright at suddenly hearing your own voice in the silence, don't begin to gabble, make little pauses. Even if you think you are forgetting something keep going on. If you falter, keep calm, look at your notes and resume. The chances are you will gain a little confidence and this will sustain your effort to the conclusion.

You will hear yourself calling upon the speaker to address the meeting. You will sit down and wonder if you have made any slips. Really it does not matter if you forgot a point or flopped for a moment. The fact is you have made a chairman's speech and gained experience for the future.

From my experience of noting first efforts of people I can say it is a general rule that if they have prepared a speech they get through it somehow and mostly rather creditably.

Should you feel you did badly, take comfort in the thought that many notable speakers made first attempts which were failures. Keep on trying!

(To be continued)

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to the

### Enfield Highway Society Co-operative Party

A thorough knowledge of the Co-operative Movement and of political organisation is essential. A commencing salary of £400 will be paid.

Application forms may be obtained from Secretary, Enfield Highway Co-operative Society, Ltd., 112, Ordnance Road, Enfield, Middlesex, and should be completed and returned as soon as possible.

# Are You on Speaking Terms?

A series of articles to help platform aspirants by Harold Croft.

## (III) Your First Chairman's Speech (Continued)

Whatever the subject, if you try to set down some average remarks about it, that very approach will probably suggest further thoughts to you. Actually you have more ideas in your mind than you think, and it is mostly a matter of sorting them out and expressing them. It may seem hard at first to disentangle your thoughts and put them on paper, but persistence will give results. You can always revise your notes later, but the chances are that what at first seemed very ordinary will prove to be good in itself.

Part 3. Now you have to write a few sentences about the speaker. The person who has booked him ought to be able to give you some information. Put the points down at once or you may find yourself hazy about them when you attempt to write them up later. Mostly there is something factual to be said about a speaker, and points like the following can be listed.

1. The speaker Councillor John Smith.
2. Zealous member of the Party for 20 years.
3. Good Trade Unionist. Can speak for the workers.
4. Councillor for ten years. Much effort on Housing.
5. Man of honesty and ability, influential and popular.
6. Always has something good and informative to say to us.
7. Call upon him to speak.

In most cases, three or four characteristic items about the speaker will be available. Even if there does not appear much to go on, you can try to make the most of it. Such phrases as the following suggest possibilities:

We have not had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Blank on our platform before, but we have heard of him. He is well known in Murton where he has been associated with the Party for a number of years.

You may be lucky in having something definite to say in all three parts of your speech, but do not be discouraged or dismayed if your actual material is rather patchy. You can make the most of it by adding thoughts of your own appertaining to the meeting or subject. If there is little about

the speaker, make up for it on parts one and two.

### PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

As a beginner you will need to write out your speech fully. Of course, different people have different ways of expressing themselves, but remember a speech must not be written like an essay, or it would sound dull when spoken. The best advice is — write what you have to say in short sentences and avoid long paragraphs. You can remember the points of short sentences better, and further the meaning will be grasped more readily by the audience.

Your speech will be in three distinct sections. It will in fact be three very short speeches. You will realise how much easier it is to remember and think of your speech in this form than as one continuous essay.

If you think you could trust to headings or would in any case like them as a synopsis of your speech, cast them in some such form as indicated in the model outline already given.

As this is your first effort you will naturally desire to memorise your speech, but do it more for the points and ideas than for the words. If you get the substance of each of the three sections well in mind you are not likely to fail.

Practise delivering your speech, read it at first to get used to the sequence of points and the run of the sentences. Then concentrate on each of the three parts in turn and get used to saying the part without your manuscript. As you get familiar with the sentences, try to modulate your voice, and add slight touches of emphasis here and there. Do not forget to pause occasionally; this helps your breathing and gives the chance of altering your tone. Avoid reciting the speech if you can. It is your speech, not someone else's, so make it come from yourself in a natural way.

### AT THE MEETING

When the time comes to take the chair, have one or two pastilles handy lest your mouth becomes dry through nervousness. You can glance momentarily if need be at your notes perhaps to refresh memory as to the opening sentences.

(Continued on page 6)



A Trade Unionist "thinks aloud" on post-war problems

# Steps to Workers' Control

By L. H. PEARMAINE, National Secretary, Transport and General Workers' Union

In the last war the mechanics of industry, i.e., improved mechanisation, production planning and factory organisation were accelerated because of the requirements of war itself, and in the post-war period that followed, the re-organisation and rationalisation of industry produced some serious social problems, because the process was anarchic and divorced from the interests and trade union co-operation of the workers.

During the present war a similar acceleration has taken place, and in the post-war period similar changes may be expected, although not necessarily in the same form. Some of these changes may emerge on the following lines:

(i) A demand for greater industrial efficiency in order to meet the cost of social security.

(ii) The immediate post-war heavy demand for primary consumer goods and capital machinery for replacement and the re-building of export trade.

(iii) An wholesale extension of methods of planned production, involving factory re-organisation and the use of time and motion study in order to measure the work performance of machines and workers.

The issue of industrial efficiency must not be shirked, because we are hoping that there will be a wide support, not for one period of elected Labour Government, but for several, so that Labour may have a good chance of effectively putting into operation its short and long term programmes of social reconstruction. Industry cannot be divorced from the planning and achieving of social reconstruction for it is only by an ever-growing efficiency that industry can be made to serve adequately the full social needs of the State and its citizens.

Even while under any capitalist-influenced Government the question of industrial efficiency must not be permitted to be casually viewed, because, whenever Labour does secure the wide powers it requires, it will be far better for our people to obtain control of industry in an efficient condition than otherwise.

The effect of "social security" is important in this connection. If the proposed plans are given full effect to, then it is obvious that a successful programme of full employment must be successfully got under way, and the fact that the all-in contributions from the workers are, although reasonable for the benefits obtained, fairly substantial, is maybe one of the reasons for the likely plans of the Government to see that fair minimum wages standards will be enforced by legal decision.

The social security programme may therefore affect that part of the organisation of the Trade Unions dealing with sickness, accident, superannuation benefits, etc., but assuming they are relieved of this form of administration they will have more than their hands full dealing with the post-war organisation of industry and the question of a higher level of industrial efficiency, so much so, that the varying forms of trade union machinery may have to undergo drastic reorganisation, and we can expect that additional care will have to be given to the training of Trade Union officers, shop stewards, etc., to fit them to successfully play their part in making co-operative consultation and agreement with the workers a necessary ingredient of higher efficiency plans.

Whilst the Whitley machinery derived from the last war led to the formation of National Joint Industrial Councils, Conciliation Boards, etc., for the purpose of putting the negotiation of wages and conditions of employment on a national basis, it failed to completely link the national work with the affairs of the factory, although within the Whitley machinery, provision was made for the establishment of Works Committees, representative of management and workers.

These Committees failed to develop successfully because of the undeveloped nature of factory management and works personnel, but with the growth of factory negotiations for the purpose of regulating National Wage Agreements this aspect should be over-

(Continued on page 12)



A well-known Broadcaster and Socialist, writing under a pen-name, declares—

# Labour Must Wake Up To Radio's Importance

By JOHN PRESTON

Labour to-day has to find the methods of appeal appropriate to a party that is eager to lead the nation. It has to broaden and enlarge its impact upon the whole people.

Fundamentally, this is, of course, a problem of policies and politics. But the Movement may well find it easier, is indeed, already finding it easier, to solve the political than some of the *technical* problems. For some of these involve quite new departures and the mastery of new fields which Labour has hardly yet entered into.

One of the most important of these new techniques is the use of Radio. It is a technique that the Party has hardly begun to think about yet.

During the war, however, Labour material has come to play a bigger and bigger part in our radio output. Workers' Programmes go out from London week by week in a good many languages to Europe—and in these the doings and ideas of the British Labour Movement take a dominant place. Labour news and views play a significant part in our radio output to America and the Empire. And the Home Service has begun during the war to give extremely vivid eye-witness accounts, with recordings, of major Labour Conferences and meetings. Labour Party and T.U. officials have been prompt to give every sort of facility at Conferences covered by the B.B.C. Certain International Trade Secretariats have taken initiatives and interest in Labour broadcasts to Europe. But on the whole, the British Labour Movement has been slow to grasp the significance of all this. There has been no initiative: and only recently interest in what has been happening, or even awareness of it.

In a word, the tremendous advances of the British Radio during the war have shown that Labour events have a much higher public interest value than the Movement realises.

That's the first thing. Labour must realise the news-value of its activities

—or to put the thing another way—it must realise how interested the general public is in Labour events. Both the Labour Party and the T.U.C. should seriously consider the appointment of radio-contact officers. Their functions should be to keep close and friendly contact with the various B.B.C. Services; to feed them; and above all, to learn how this particular technique works—what is possible and impossible, the best way to get things done and so forth. A simple matter is the release of 'stories' at the right time to catch the right news bulletins. Raw material for broadcasting should have a quite different make-up from material for the press.

At the moment, this is a question for only the central offices of the Movement. But, it seems very probable that after the war Regional Stations will be more important than ever. This will be a chance and a test for Regional Councils.

We should have no idea of ramming Labour propaganda down the public's throat by radio. We should never succeed, and it would do us harm if we did. It's a question of realising that many Labour events are news.

There is also a whole field of broadcasting that is not directly Labour—politically and socially 'controversial' broadcasting. Some members of the Movement, on the Brains Trust, in the Week at Westminster, and other programmes, have understood what useful and effective work can be done in this field. It should be a constant Labour aim to encourage in every way the extent and scope of controversial broadcasting. This is a point the Party should bear in mind when the B.B.C. Charter comes up for reconsideration in Parliament, and in Parliamentary debates from time to time in the House. We should be cautious in attacking views that the B.B.C. allows to be given on the air. Rather we should demand that other views as well should be given.

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# AROUND THE REGIONS

## Election Conference

Preparations for post-war elections have been the keynote of the activities of the **Yorkshire** region recently.

Four hundred and thirty-four delegates attended a special meeting of the Regional Council on October 7th to discuss the subject and to listen to Mr. Morgan Phillips and Mr. G. R. Shepherd explain the views of the National Executive.

It was a keen and enthusiastic gathering and should inspire all units of the Party to set about the task of preparing now for a great Labour victory in the General Election.

Out of our 51 constituencies, 26 are already Labour. Of the remainder, 20 have candidates or are about to select them, leaving only Ecclesall, Hallam, Holderness, Howdenshire and Buckrose without, and it is expected that these will take the necessary steps soon.

Both the C.P. and the I.L.P. have published names of prospective candidates for Yorkshire constituencies and there have been rumours of Common Wealth nominees, but Divisional Labour Parties are not very perturbed at these threats from the "unity" lovers.

An interesting feature of the election is likely to be the intervention of more Liberal candidates than at any time since 1929.

The majority of constituencies have chosen their agents and a list has been compiled of qualified and experienced persons who would be willing to serve as agents in constituencies requiring their services.

A study class for election "key" workers has been held in Leeds and a similar class is to be held in Sheffield.

County Council elections also have been under consideration and plans are in hand for a county-wide campaign on modern lines which will give Labour on the West Riding County Council (one of the largest municipal authorities in the country), a clear majority for the first time.

## Talks with T.U.'s

The extension and development of the Party machine in readiness for the General Election proceeds apace in **West Midlands**.

Selection of candidates is taking place in many constituencies and candidates have been selected in Burton-

on-Trent, Dudley and King's Norton. A series of One-Day Schools has been arranged to train key personnel in "The Conduct of Elections." Special conferences with the Trade Union movement have been held at Oxford and Stoke-on-Trent to secure the active participation of Trade Union members in the work of the Party and especially in the re-organisation of Ward Parties.

Sixty delegates attended the Oxford Conference, and as a result a detailed plan of activity has been drawn up and Ward Parties are being reorganised.

Development campaign honours go to the Northfield Ward of the King's Norton Division, who in a short membership drive enrolled 170 new members. Throughout the Division over 1,700 copies of "Your Future" have been sold.

In Stoke-on-Trent a special consultation with members of the Labour Group resulted in decisions to speed up the compilation of the panel of municipal candidates, the drafting of a programme of municipal policy, and the acceptance by the Councillors of responsibility in the strengthening of Ward Party organisation.

The drive for the appointment of more J.P.'s continues, and we are glad to report further appointments in Staffordshire and Worcestershire this month.

## Choosing Candidates

The declaration of the National Executive on the Labour Party and the next General Election has stimulated interest in the **Northern** Divisional Labour Parties regarding the organisation of the Party. From now on efforts will be made to perfect the machinery of the Party in readiness for the next General Election.

Following the Regional Conference on Election Preparations, which is to be held on November 11th, all the Divisional Labour Parties have been asked to arrange special conferences of key workers in order to discuss General Election preparations.

Owing to the retirement of three Labour M.P.s at the end of this Parliament, three Divisional Parties are busy selecting their candidates and six other Divisional Parties are also engaged in selecting candidates.

Very great interest is now being



shown by the Divisional Labour Parties in Education activities. As a result of a request by the Regional Council, D.L.P.s are organising Day Schools, the lecturers being supplied by the Regional Council on various subjects, such as Health, Education, Future of Local Government, Housing, Full Employment, International Affairs, etc.

The Regional Council's interim report on Location of Industry has been received by affiliated and Party organisations with great interest, and a reprint has had to be made in order to meet the demand for additional copies.

### SCOTS IN UNISON

Last month I wrote of the Scottish Annual Conference before the event had taken place. This month I am able to mention it in retrospect as the most successful Conference yet held by the Scottish Council.

Two hundred and thirty-three delegates represented 29 Trade Unions, 57 Divisional Parties and 3 Socialist Societies, showing such a sustained interest in the proceedings that there was practically no movement during any of the four sessions. They also showed clear and balanced judgment on every issue which went to a vote and were quick to distinguish practical policy from mere clap-trap. A thoroughly satisfying conference, indicating that the Scottish Movement is sound in heart and mind.

\* \* \*

Preparations are now complete for another Scottish Conference, this time on the single subject of election preparations. Of the 71 Scottish constituencies 37 have their candidates selected; 18 are proceeding with the business of selection as I write and the remaining 16 are being tackled. It is probable that the candidate line-up will be complete by the end of the year, but that is only the beginning of the job. There is a scarcity of skilled Agents and in the nine years which have elapsed since the last election there has been a drainage from the never very full reservoir of experienced election workers.

\* \* \*

In all Scotland there is only one full-time Constituency Agent. There have never been more than half-a-dozen at any time. Consequently high pressure electioneering on the well-organised lines familiar to some successful Eng-

lish constituencies has never been developed to any extent in Scotland. Several seats have been lost and many others would have been won if good electoral organisation had been developed and if the D.L.P.s had equipped themselves with sufficient finances for their contests. These are some of the problems to be tackled by the special Election Conference this month.

\* \* \*

The leaflet on Service Votes, issued by the Scottish Council, was speedily sold out and paper control raised difficulties about a supply of paper for a reprint. However, many Parties have been able to obtain a supply from local printers and one Union has reprinted the leaflet on its own paper, with a letter on the reverse side advising the member in the Forces to make sure of his registration. Each accessible member in the Forces is being sent a copy of this leaflet.

\* \* \*

Britain's most northerly constituency is in the Party news this month. The Orkneys Labour Party has published its post-war plan for the Orkneys, and a very useful and practical document it is. In these remote islands, where political philosophy is free from the influences of the daily Press, local issues are of greater importance than matters of high national policy. Social security to the Shetlander has more reference to the organisation of the hill sheep industry than it has to the White Paper, and the Orcadian's best health service is the development of the potential industries of Kirkwall. Therefore the Labour Plan for the Orkneys, considered and produced by the Orcadians themselves, is creating much local interest and approval, with a second edition for the outer group of islands likely to follow from the Shetlands.

Some idea of the distances involved in contacting our Parties in this constituency can be gathered from the fact that the Scottish Organiser, visiting them this month to discuss the Parliamentary candidature, and travelling by air, takes a week to include a visit to each local Party in the Division and will be much nearer to Norway during his journey than to his own office.

What happens before the chairman says—

# “Our Speaker To-night Is . . .”

By JOHN PINKERTON (Propaganda Officer, Labour Party)

The Party can be justly proud of its Members of Parliament and all those who, in spite of war-time conditions, have given so unstintingly of their services in addressing meetings. They have done much to help us maintain our endeavour that no matter how short the notice or difficult the subject, we always do our utmost to meet the needs of the organisation making the request. Perhaps an explanation of the work of the department and method of dealing with requests will enable readers to appreciate more fully this service.

From the inception of the Meetings Department and up to the outbreak of war a very extensive panel of speakers was available. This included propagandists, lecturers and specialists on all aspects of Party Policy.

When war broke out the Speakers' Panel shrank to a mere shadow of its former proportions and speakers who had formerly been available at almost any time found themselves restricted by reason of their war-time occupations. Members of Parliament likewise found the problems of their constituents increasing tenfold and more of their time had to be devoted to them.

Nevertheless, and in spite of all the difficulties created, we have been able to maintain a service. With the end of the war in measurable distance, we are happy to be able to say that the panel of speakers is again expanding, and included therein are the names of many young and brilliant exponents of the Socialist philosophy. Although the availability of speakers is nothing like what it was in peace-time, it is certainly improving and we can envisage greater improvement as time goes on. We are also compiling biographical details of all the newcomers to our Panel, and are now able to provide Parties with advance press stories of the achievements of the speaker and, in many cases, can also provide photo blocks. Advice on the organisation of public meetings and specimen lay-outs of posters and tickets is also given with every booking.

When requests for speakers are re-

ceived, consideration is given to the local problems, the political and industrial complexion of the constituency or town, and the most suitable speakers for such a place are listed and approaches are made to them by personal contact or letter. When finally a booking is made the local secretary is informed, his attention is drawn to the question of the organisation of the meeting and also to the fact that supplies of pamphlets and literature are available on a sale or return basis. There are and always will be Parties disappointed in that we have not been able to secure the services of one of the big five or six for their particular meeting, but we can give the assurance that every effort is made by us to ensure that the meeting will fulfil its object.

*(Continued from page 8)*

come. As Trade Union officers and Shop Stewards continue to be trained to fully understand the organisation of planned production, i.e., the utilisation of time, raw materials, machines and labour, which renders man hours production suitably equipped to deal with these problems they will, as workers' representatives, begin to experience the first phase of workers' share of control in industry which is the taking of practical responsibility. From this point, with a long period of Labour Government influence in industry, workers' representatives may ultimately receive a training and experience which will equip them to exert executive responsibility in industry.

## NEW PARTY AGENTS

LANCS.: Accrington.—Mrs. A. E. Spivey, Labour Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancs.

SALOP.: The Wrekin.—Mr. Mellow Harrison, Morris Hall, Church Street, Wellington, Salop.

LANARKS.: Glasgow, Central.—Mr. Andrew Fleming, 6, Agamenon Street, Clydebank, Dumbartonshire.



# Around the Parties

(Continued from page 5)

## AGENT APPOINTED

Yeovil Division is fully awake to the political tendencies of the times. Realising that improved organisation is essential to success, it has decided to appoint a full-time agent to develop its local resources.

## ANSWERING YOU

South Stanmore Local Labour Party is showing great enterprise in the organisation of a series of International Brains Trusts. At its last Trust meeting representatives from the U.S.S.R., Poland, France and Czechoslovakia took the platform to reply to "any

questions." The effect of this type of activity is felt not merely by the audience, but by the International representatives themselves. The Stanmore Party, which is situated in the Harrow Division, is to be complimented on the activities it has now in hand.

## "Labour Parliamentary Association"

The Society of Labour Candidates will, in future, be known as the "Labour Parliamentary Association: The Society of Labour Members of Parliament and Candidates."

A resolution to this effect, moved by the executive, was approved at the A.G.M. in London on October 21.

## Labour Party List of D.L.P. Alterations (October)

Index No.	Description.	Name of Organisation.	Present Secretary and Address.
G3	CD	Luton D.L.P.	Coun. W. G. ROBERTS, 3, Union Street, Luton, Beds.
G126	CD	Hunts. D.L.P.	Mr. F. M. HAGGER, 45, Queen's Road, Old Fletton, Peterborough.
D139	CD	Gravesend D.L.P.	Mr. T. W. LAMBTON, 50, Queen's Road, Gravesend, Kent.
D140	CD	Isle of Thanet D.L.P.	Mr. R. J. COE, 7, Empire Terrace, Margate, Kent.
B144	SB	Accrington T.C. & L.P.	Mrs. A. E. SPIVEY, Labour Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancs.
E227	BD	Bethnal Green South-West D.L.P.	Mrs. M. DYSON, 376, Bethnal Green Road, London, E.2.
E242/3	DB	Hammersmith B.L.P.	Mr. J. W. SINGLETON, 446, Uxbridge Road, London, W.12. Tel.: Shepherd's Bush 2602.
E242	BD	Hammersmith North D.L.P.	Ald. W. TURNEY, J.P., 446, Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.12. Tel.: Shepherd's Bush 2602.
E262	SB	St. Marylebone D.L.P.	Mr. T. VERNON, 4a, Spanish Place Mansions, London, W.1.
G306	CD	Norfolk South-West D.L.P.	Mr. H. J. HARROWING, 13, Hills Close, Sporle, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
M346	SB	Newcastle D.L.P.	Mr. R. MOSS, B.A., 49, Boon Hill Big-nall End, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.
G365	CD	Eye D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. R. BIRD, 37, Stowupland Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk.
D389	CD	Horsham & Worthing D.L.P.	Mr. A. G. JOHNSON, Dalathso, West Chiltington Common, Pulborough, Sussex.
C420/3	DB	Bradford City D.L.P.	Mr. E. HARRISON, 47, Sewell Road, Leeds Road, Bradford, Yorks.
H507	CD	Pontypool D.L.P.	Mr. J. RICHARDS, 7, Victoria Street, Griffithstown, Pontypool, Mon.
J537/51	DB	Glasgow B.L.P.	Mr. A. FLEMING, 20, Bath Street, Glasgow, C.2. Tel.: Douglas 4454.

# THE WAR-TIME ELECTION ACTS

(Continued)

## TIME TABLE FOR AN ELECTION

(S.R. & O. 1944 No. 900, price 8d.)

**Qualifying Date.**—The date which is taken to give entitlement to be put on the register for the impending election. It is the last day of the month next but one before that in which the election is initiated (1933 and 1944 Acts).

(e.g., Election initiated in June; Qualifying date is April 30.)

### DAYS

- 0 INITIATION OF ELECTION. Day of Proclamation or Receipt of Writ.
- 14 Last day for B.P. applications.
- 20 Publication of Civilian Electors' Lists.  
Publication of Notices re Claims and Objections.
- 24 Last day for Service applications to vote by post.  
Publication of B.P. Lists.
- 27 Last day for Claims and Objections to Civilian Lists.  
Last day for applications to be entered on Absent Voters' List.
- 29 Last day for Claims and Objections to B.P. Lists.
- 34 Limit of period for consideration of Claims and Objections.
- 36. PUBLICATION OF REGISTER. (A.V. and Services Postal Lists—40th day.)

**Election Starts.**—The election starts, and procedure has effect as if the date of publication of the Register were the reference to the date of Proclamation (General Election) or the day of receipt of the Writ (By-Election) with respect to the determination of the day of nomination and day of poll. (See Section 2, 1943 Act.)

It will be noticed that a period of about seven-and-a-half weeks is involved between the day of initiation and the day of poll.

**NOTE.**—A main point to keep in mind is that "Registration" is only brought into effect for a particular election pending. The date of qualification is related only to that election. The various applications, for the B.P. franchise, for the Absent Voters' list, for Services' postal voting, and for Claims and Objections can thus be made only after the day of initiation of that election.

## COMPUTATION OF TIMES

Where the last day of the time allowed by these regulations for any matter, other than the consideration of Claims and Objections, falls on a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or a Bank Holiday, that time shall be extended until the end of the next following day which is not a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, or a Bank Holiday. (Reg. 28.) A similar provision applies to the day of publication of the Register by Section 1 (5).

## NUMBER OF ELECTORS

(For Computation of Maximum Expenses)

**1943 Act Third Schedule.**—The R.O. on the day of initiation or the next following day shall publish a notice specifying the number of persons estimated by him to be qualified for registration as electors in each polling district in the constituency . . . and as respects that election the number so specified in relation to any polling district shall be taken to be the number of electors in that polling district and the aggregate of those numbers shall be taken to be the number of electors in the constituency. (The above provision is linked to the First Schedule of C.I.P.P.A. 1883 relating to election expenses.)

**Later Notice in Certain Constituencies.**—The notice as above may be published at any time not later than the fifteenth day from the initiation of the election in the following constituencies:—City of London, Finsbury, Holborn, Marylebone, S.W. St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, St. George's, Westminster, 2, Edgbaston, West Birmingham, Bradford C., Bristol C., Hull C., Leeds C., Leicester S., Liverpool Exchange, Manchester Exchange, Newcastle C., Nottingham C., Sheffield C., Cardiff C., Edinburgh C. and N., Glasgow Central, Gorbals and Kelvingrove. The divisions of Belfast. (These constituencies have districts where B.P. registrations are numerous and cannot be estimated fairly until the B.P. applications are received.)



## MARKS IN THE REGISTER

S.R. & O. 1944, No. 900. Regulation 4.—Provision is made for the following marks against names in the register:—

F = a member of the Forces.

S = a seaman.

W = a war worker.

P = entitled to vote by proxy.

A = entitled to vote by post.

L = a liveryman in the B.P. register.

## COPIES OF LISTS AND SERVICE REGISTER

S.R. & O. 1944, No. 900.—35.—(1) The registration officer shall, if requested by a candidate at an election or his election agent, supply without fee for the use of the candidate in connection with the election copies, to any number not exceeding eight, of the electors lists, of the service register and of a note (to be prepared by him for the purpose) of the differences between the electors lists and the civilian residence and business premises registers:

Provided that no candidate shall be entitled to have more than two copies of any electors list, or of the service register, supplied for his use unless either the request is made before the date on which that list or register, as the case may be, is required to be published under these regulations or the Act of 1943, or copies are available after allowing for the number required apart from this regulation and without making additional copies for the purpose.

(2) For the purposes of the foregoing paragraph, a copy in which one side of every sheet is left blank shall count as two:

Provided that the number of copies to which a candidate is entitled shall not, by virtue of this paragraph, be reduced to a number less than six.

(3) In relation to any time before nomination at an election, the expression "candidate" in this regulation means any person who appears to the registration officer to be genuinely seeking nomination thereat.

(NOTE.—Copies are not purchasable for the election, so candidates or agents must make sure to apply in time for the full number of free copies.)

*(To be continued)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

There is one type of broadcasting when the Party should and must attempt to make the maximum public impact as a Party—namely, in the broadcasting time allotted to the Party at a General Election. We have never yet made the best use of this opportunity. Wonders could be accomplished by taking full advantage of technical and expert aid and advice. The first step is that the National Executive should take over the general supervision of our election broadcasts. Individual speakers should regard themselves as a team, and in the highest sense as spokesmen of the Party.

There may be great scope after the war for some form of international Labour broadcasting. This will depend, of course, upon many as yet unknown factors.

The essential thing here is that

Labour should be eager to master this new technique, to think ahead, to take initiatives and make experiments.

## CANDIDATURES ENDORSED

GLOS.: Bristol, West.—Major W. E. Balmer. D.L.P.

HERTS.: Hitchin.—Major P. A. Jones. D.L.P.

KENT: Bromley.—Mr. Alexander Bain. D.L.P.

LANCS.: Liverpool, Waterloo.—Coun. F. Osborne. D.L.P.

OXON.: Henley.—Mr. J. Stewart Cook. D.L.P.

WESTMORLAND: Westmorland.—Wing-Com. J. C. McEwen Gibb. D.L.P.

GLAM.: Cardiff, South.—Sub.-Lieut. T. J. Callaghan, R.N.V.R. D.L.P.

LANARKS.: South.—Mr. Tom Steele. D.L.P.



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